

STATE SITUATION SUMMARY REPORT

INCIDENT 0777 HAZMAT FIXED FACILITY

UPDATED 11:15 AM CDT 5/9/97

SITUATION

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FIXED FACILITY INCIDENT AT THE BPS PLANT IN WEST HELENA. FIRE AND EXPLOSION AT AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL PACKAGING PLANT.

LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED BY PHILLIPS COUNTY AT 7:20 PM 5/8/97.

STATE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DECLARED BY GOVERNOR HUCKABEE ON 5/8/97.

CHEMICAL INVOLVED IS AZINPHOSMETHYL (TOXIC). ATROPINE SENT AS ANTIDOTE FROM PINE BLUFF ARSENAL.

APPROXIMATELY 25 NATIONAL GUARDSMEN WERE SENT FOR SECURITY. GUARD HAS BEEN RELEASED AS OF 10:00 AM 5/9/97AM.

HUMAN IMPACT:

AS OF 5/9/97 08:30 AM

FATALITIES: 3 (2 FULL TIME FIREMEN WITH WEST HELENA FIRE DEPARTMENT AND 1 VOLUNTEER WITH WEST HELENA FIRE DEPARTMENT)

INJURIES: UNCONFIRMED 16

INJURIES: CONFIRMED

1 INJURY THAT REQUIRED HOSPITALIZATION (NOT IN WEST HELENA HOSPITAL) AND IS IN STABLE CONDITION.

30 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TREATED AND RELEASED AT THE FINE ARTS CENTER AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FROM SYMPTOMS OF THE CHEMICALS IN THE EXPLOSION

EVACUATION:

HELENA HOSPITAL EVACUATED TO PHILLIPS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

HOUSING AREA SOUTH OF HWY. 49 BYPASS EVACUATED.

AT 9:35 PM 5/8/97 RECEIVED NOTIFICATION FROM ARKANSAS HEALTH DEPARTMENT THAT PEOPLE WERE BEING ALLOWED BACK IN THEIR HOMES. CONFIRMED BY STATE OES AREA COORDINATOR.

FACILITIES:

AMERICAN RED CROSS SHELTER OPENED AT THE NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY 437 PHILLIPS IN WEST HELENA (870-572-3501) FOR EVACUEES. SHELTER IS CLOSING AT 10:00 AM ON 5/9/97.

912318



TRANSPORTATION:

MISSISSIPPI RIVER IS CLOSED TO TRAFFIC. RIVER OPENED FOR TRAFFIC AT 2:00 AM 5/9/97.

HIGHWAY 49 BRIDGE IS OPEN TO TRAFFIC.

AIR SPACE RESTRICTED BY MEMPHIS FAA WITHIN A FIVE MILE RADIUS BELOW 5000 FEET. AIR SPACE REOPENED IN THE AREA AT 10:45 AM ON 5/9/97.